3:Zeisberger M-5 (1767-1780)1910
NM7 Delaware NM7

135 are, for the most part, of a gray, fine sand and make as good whetstones as one might wish. Rocks you meet occasionally along the Ohio, but away from the river and here along the Muskingum very few, even most of, the mountains and hills are not rocky.

Pit-coal is found in abundance, but as there is no lack of wood it is little used and hardly thought of by the Indians. In Pittsburg the coal is used in fire-places and by blacksmiths.

[324] [276] A kind of stone, black in color, is found here, that is easily worked and cut. It has no sand in its composition and the Indians make tobacco pipes of it, some doing very neat work.

There is also a kind of stone, blue in color, which is very hard. It somewhat resembles the limestone of Pensilvanien, but examination has shown it to be different. Limestone has not yet been found in this region.

A mineralogist would find many more varieties to describe, to which I am unable to give even the names, especially along the shores of the river, where all kinds may be seen, green, yellow, blue, red and black. About ore I know little or nothing concerning this region. The Indians believed themselves to have found gold and silver, but what they produced as precious ore, because it resembled this somewhat, on the test and examination of whites was found to be sulphurous substance.[138] Whatever glitters, the Indians are apt to look upon at once as being gold or silver.

317 276 [439] The Cherokees, who through the years have had much intercourse with the Delawares, brought with them many tobacco pipes for trade. These they made of quite white stone, probably white marble.[139] When completed they blackened the pipes and in such a way that they retained their color. These pipes are made so neatly that they are no heavier than the European pipes.

From the Mississippi the Indians bring red marble, whenever they come from that direction. Of this pipes are also made. [293] Such pipes, however, are as a rule to be seen only in the possession of chiefs or captains, for not many of them are to be had. A pipe of this sort is generally used in council or on solemn occasions. This is carried about by the chief counsellor, each

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262 Flour was either ground between two stones or pounded in a
[412] mortar and pestle by the Delaware. The mortar was usually a hollowed tree trunk, the pestle a suitably shaped stone (Smith, p. 138; Lindstrom, pp. 253-54; Abbott, 1875, p. 357; Kalm, p. 230).

276 Stone pottery and clay pipes have been uncovered on archae-
[323] ological sites. Lindstrom describes the Lenape pipes as beautifully
324 painted and glazed with birds and animals on the head. He says there are some "...an ell in length, which are screwed together with leather,...and in these pipe-heads will go a handful of tobacco" (Lindstrom, p. 197). These were presumably of European manufacture. The pipes which have been recovered from old sites are of a much humbler variety (Abbott, 1875, pp. 343-44; Skinner, 1909, p. 27; Butler, p. 249). This apparent inconsistency can be readily explained, however, by assuming that Lindstrom was referring to the calumets or peace pipes, which were relatively rare and would be likely to have been carried west by the owners when they moved (Kalm, pp. 231-32).

285 Some household items manufactured by the Delaware women were
[283] mats, ropes and baskets made from wild hemp, spruce roots, corn husks and rushes. The mats, which were sometimes painted or had figures worked in or over the weave, were hung on the walls for increased protection against the elements as well as to beautify the house (Smith, p. 138; Lindstrom, p. 221; Harrington, 1913, p. 224). They were also used as part of the bedding together with the skin or
287 turkey-feather robes which served as clothing during the day (Johnson, p. 280; Heckewelder, 1881, p. 203). The turkey-feather robes deserve special attention as they were evidently one of the most distinctive and beautiful of the Delaware's manufactures. Lindstrom says: "They also make fine and beautiful quilts of painted bird feathers. In the first place they tie them with meshes like nets, yet very fine; then they fasten the feathers in the meshes, so neat and strong that not one feather can come loose from it..." (Lindstrom, pp. 221-22). When there was a "bed," it consisted of a wooden
352 shelf running around the interior wall of the house and serving as a seat by day (Harrington, 1913, p. 218; Zeisberger, 1910, p. 17; Skinner, 1915, p. 7).

342 The most common type of Delaware house was a small hut consisting of a rectangular, gabled frame of saplings covered with bark or mats. Penn describes their houses thus: "Their Houses are Mats, or Bark of Trees set on Poles, in the fashion of an English Barn, but out of the power of the Winds, for they are hardly higher than a Man..." (Penn, p. 31). Some Delaware, however, constructed a house large enough to accommodate several families, the increase in size all deriving from greater length. The result was not unlike an Iroquois longhouse.[6] In the center of the house was one or more fires depending on the length of the building, and the ridge of the roof was arranged with an opening through which the smoke could

[P. 11, B]

172 323 532 tion of the face. The hole in the dorsal surface (shown in Plate 4, No. 2) is connected with the holes indicating the eyes. No explanation for the purpose of this dorsal hole or indeed of the entire specimen can be attempted at this time.

Bone

172 321 41 Bone and antler artifacts do not appear to be abundant on Minsi sites. On occasion, the bone awl, antler flakers of cylindrical form, combs, turtle-shell cups, perforated deer phalanges, perforated needles, antler picks, beaming tools, and short bone tubes, probably used as ornaments, are found.

Shell

At the present time, because of an almost total lack of evidence, (the Bell-Philhower Site report lists one shell bead found by Mr. Charles A. Philhower in a pit of the historical period and worked fragments of conch) the writer is not prepared to discuss the possible incidence of shell artifacts in the prehistoric Minsi Culture. In common with Ritchie ("Bell-Philhower Site", p. 178) he refers the interested reader to the Heye-Pepper report, "Exploration of a Munsee Cemetery" for a description of numerous shell ornaments, etc., from the *historic* Minsi site adjacent to the Bell-Philhower component.

ROUGH STONE

172 324 227 Net sinkers are of two well-defined types: flat pebbles with two opposed notches, and sinkers made of thin sheets of stone chipped into circular or rectangular shape with two opposed notches. These 'trimmed sinkers' may have notches formed by chipping, or rarely, by grinding. (Plate 5, No. 3, shows notched flat pebble; Plate 5, No. 1, shows trimmed sinker with chipped notches; No. 3 of the same plate is a trimmed ground-notch sinker.)

Sinkers of both types may range in size from an inch to six or seven inches in

[P.12, A]

172 227 324 length. (Plate 11, Nos. 1 and 5, shows very small sinkers, No. 1 being the chipped type and No. 5, a notched pebble.) Caches of sinkers occur in this culture, the writer having uncovered a hoard of 28 specimens in 1936 and another of six specimens in 1948. (Plate 6 shows the six specimens contained in the latter find.)

Hammerstones, Hoes, Lap-Stones

172 324 412 Hammerstones consisting of simple bi-pitted pebbles (Plate 7, No. 2), rudely chipped triangular or oval stone hoes, and lap-stones or metates occur in this culture. One so-called lap-stone found in a pit on the Bell-Philhower Site late in 1947 consists of a roughly-shaped oblong block of very fine sandstone 3 in. thick, 11½ in. long, and 8 in. wide. Both faces are slightly concave.

Roller Pestles

Minsi roller pestles are generally very well made. Some are very long, exceeding 18 inches in length. One found by the writer shortly after the flood of 1936 is nearly 14 inches long and bears on one end the crude effigy of what appears to be a reptile head. (Plate 8).

Stone Discs

One stone disc in the writer's collection was washed out by the 1936 flood on the Davenport Site near Milford, Pa. It was found intimately associated with sherds of Minsi type. This specimen is 1¼ inches thick and is slightly over 4 inches in diameter. It was probably used as a muller in common with certain pebbles of fine sandstone occurring on Minsi sites. These pebbles show wear on one or both faces. (For illustration of stone disc, see Plate 9, No. 2.) It is to be observed that the type of stone disc under discussion here is not the kind of chipped disc (net sinker) mentioned in the Bell-Philhower report, p. 237.

14:Leslie A-4.5 (no date) 1951
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Sinew Stones

172 324 412 In the Milford area it is possible on occasion to recover egg-shaped (and sized) pebbles almost completely encircled by shallow pecked grooves. Ritchie in the Bell-Philhower report, p. 175, refers to them as "partly grooved thick pebble sinkers". The present writer has never found this explanation of their use to be entirely satisfactory (Plate 7, Nos. 1 and 3.)

Stone Faces

172 324 532 Under the category of rough stone it is proper to include the stone faces which now and then turn up on Minsi sites. To the writer's knowledge, at least five of these have been found in the Milford area, one splendid specimen from Minisink Island (Plate 10) being presently in the collection of Mr. Rudolph Ludwig. According to [796] numerous authorities, these rough-tone effigies were used in the Lenni-Lenapé Big House Ceremony.

Polished Stone Artifacts

Celts

172 324 412 The inventory of Minsi polished stone artifacts is not large. Most prominent in this category is the so-called 'thick-polled celt' (Plate 9, Nos. 1 and 3). It is to be observed that some of these are almost restagular in cross-section, others more nearly oval.

Small Chisels

Well made "miniature celts" in the form of small narrow chisels or of small pebbles with a celt-like edge are among the most interesting and unusual Minsi artifacts. Some (Plate 1, No. 8) are beautifully made. In my opinion, this type of implement is important in the identification of Minsi-occupied sites. Several years ago the writer published in the "Pennsylvania Archaeologist" (Vol. IX, No. 3) a brief discussion of the possible use of these small tools. In that article it was suggested

14:Leslie A-4.5 (no date) 1951
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that they were possibly used to incise pottery. (For illustrations of several of these chisels found in the Milford area, see Plate 1, Nos. 7 to 13.)

Gorgets and Pendants

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The Bell-Philhower report mentions gorgets and pendants as being possible Minsi traits (pp. 174 and 236) on the basis of the reported finding of a gorget by Mr. Charles A. Philhower in a pit in association with a mat needle and a pottery vessel of Owasco type. This view is further supported by the mention of Owasco parallels and by a reference to the discovery of a pendant by Heye and Pepper during their excavation of the adjacent Minsi site of the historic period.

The probability of the occurrence of both the gorget and the pendant in the inventory of Minsi cultural traits must be freely accepted, but it cannot be maintained that the matter is conclusively settled on the basis of present evidence—particularly as regards the gorget. It may be observed in connection with this problem that in this area the gorget is generally to be regarded as associated with the "middle" period rather than the "late" to which the Minsi belong. This does not, however, rule out the possibility of a weak survival or borrowing of this cultural trait.

Paint Stone

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In the summer of 1948 the writer found on the surface of the Bell-Philhower Site a thin rectangular piece of hematite with concave surfaces on each side exhibiting the marks of abrasion (Plate 1, No. 4). The obvious conclusion is that this object was used as a source of pigment, probably for personal adornment. While its occurrence on the surface gives rise to a certain element of doubt concerning its cultural affiliation, it is almost certainly of Minsi origin.

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Chipped Stone Artifacts

Arrowpoints

172 Most prominent in the category of Minsi chipped stone implements is the triangular
● 324 arrowpoint. While several forms of trian-
411 gular points occur, the vast majority of Minsi points are equilateral triangles with concave bases. A considerable number of equilateral triangular points also occur with straight bases. (Plate 11, Nos. 14 and 11, shows concave-base points; Nos. 11, 12, and 13 have straight bases.)

The materials of which Minsi chipped
[803] implements found in the Milford area are made include jasper (brown, yellow, red), argillite, black, white and gray chert, and a chalcedony-like material. By far the most commonly-used of these materials were argillite and black chert.

Knives

172 Although knives of several types (ovate,
324 large triangular, broad side-notched, etc.)
412 have been found on sites generally conceded to be Minsi, this kind of implement is not typical of the culture.

Scrapers

Both side scrapers, consisting of retouched flakes, and end scrapers occur in the Minsi Culture, but not to the extent that they are found in the much older Laurentian horizon.

The most prominent, in fact, almost the exclusive form of end scraper is the ovate type. The keeled back form is a very poor second and while occurring, is, like the chipped knife, not typical of the culture. (Plate 11, Nos. 7, 8, 9, shows end scrapers from a large site near Milford, Pa., generally conceded to be Minsi.)

Drills

Although Ritchie's statistics (Bell-Philhower report, p. 236) would lead one to the conclusion that drills are comparatively minor artifacts in the total Minsi series,

172 the writer has found that these implements
324 occur generally on Minsi sites. It is pos-
412 sible that they deserve more significance than Ritchie's tables would indicate. Ritchie (op. cit., p. 236) lists five types: expanded base, expanded side-notched base, expanded scraper base, T-shaped base, and Y-shaped base. Presently available statistics do not permit a selection of the most common form or forms (Plate 11, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6).

Trade Goods

172 Any trade goods found in the upper
439 Delaware area are almost certainly surviving evidence of the period of Minsi-Caucasian contact. In general, trade material is extremely rare, evidencing the fact that the contact period was of very short duration in this area. One notable exception to this general paucity of trade material is that part of the Bell Site excavated by Heye and Pepper early in the second decade of the present century. In their exploration, Heye and Pepper found numerous articles of European or Colonial origin, including beads, metal kettles, etc. (See their "Exploration of a Munsee Cemetery near Montague, N. J.", 1915.)

The writer has found only two artifacts evidencing Caucasian contact: a sheet brass triangular arrowpoint from the Davenport Site across the Delaware from Milford, Pa., found on the surface in 1934, and a small perforated triangular ornament of catlinite from near Cocheton, Sullivan Co., N. Y. (Plate 11, No. 10, shows the brass arrowpoint; Plate 1, No. 6, is the catlinite ornament.)

Summary

172 With the exception of numerous pottery decorative patterns within the framework of certain Owasco and Iroquoian ceramic techniques, it is evident that Minsi material culture is not characterized by variety. This is, of course, an example of a cultural

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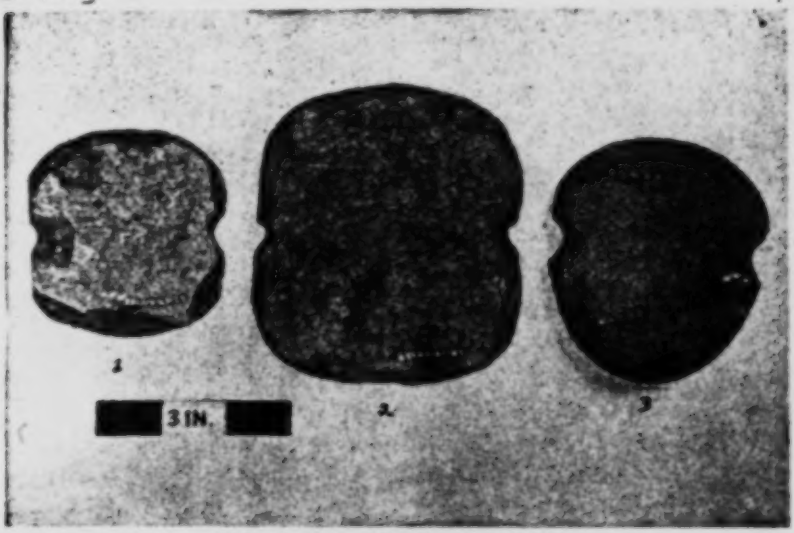

PLATE V. MINSI ARTIFACTS

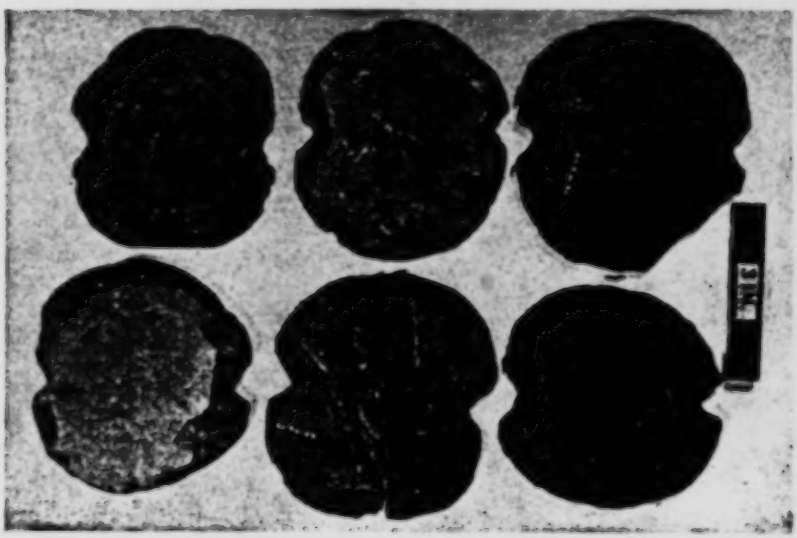

PLATE VI. MINSI ARTIFACTS

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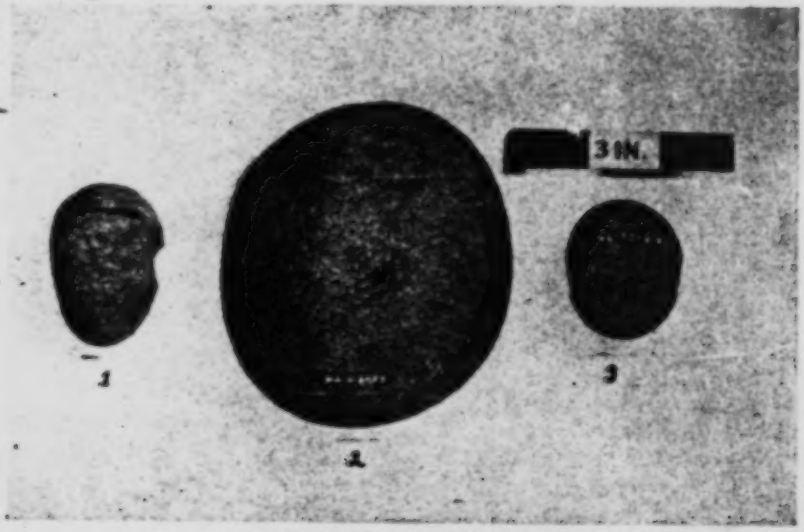

PLATE VII. MINSI ARTIFACTS

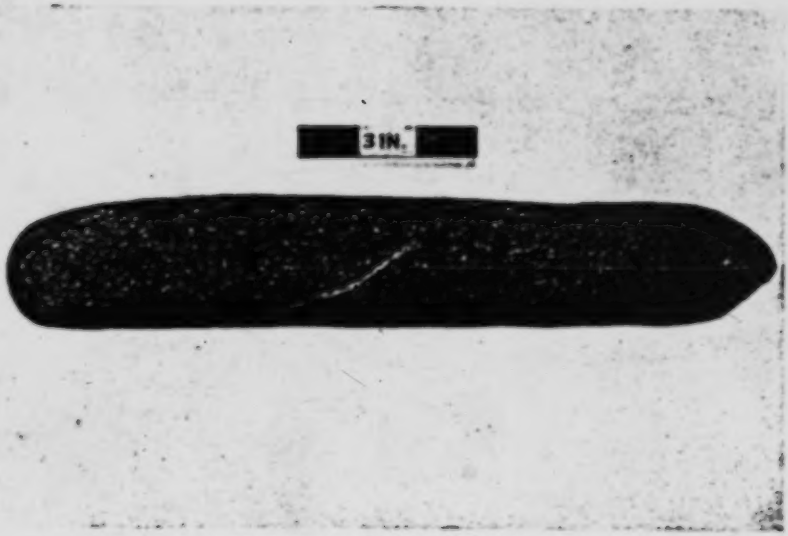

PLATE VIII. MINSI ARTIFACT

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PLATE IX. MINSI ARTIFACTS

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PLATE X. MINSI ARTIFACT

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PLATE XI. MINSI ARTIFACTS